

What is claimed is :

1. An apparatus which acquires position  
information about a user of plural types of  
5 information terminals different in position  
information communication system, comprising:

a terminal determination unit determining a  
type of the information terminal depending on data  
transmitted from an information terminal of the  
10 user; and

a position information extraction unit  
extracting position information about a user from  
the data transmitted from the information terminal  
in response to the determination result.

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2. The apparatus according to claim 1, further  
comprising

an accounting unit performing an accounting  
process depending on an entry of a user in a system  
20 including the information terminal user position  
information acquisition apparatus.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said terminal determination unit can determine  
25 a type of the information terminal depending on the

data transmitted from an information terminal in a system of announcing position information when a service is requested to an external device.

5     4.     The apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising

          a communications system and/or data conversion unit converting data transmitted from an information terminal in a system of regularly or  
10     irregularly announcing position information when a service is not requested to an external device into the same communications system and/or data format as the data from the information terminal in the system of announcing position information when the  
15     service is requested to the external device in plural types of information terminals, wherein

          said terminal determination unit determines a type of an information terminal in a system of regularly or irregularly announcing position  
20     information when a service is not requested to an external device.

5.     The apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

25           a user authentication unit authenticating a

user of a terminal which has announced position information using data from an information terminal of a system of announcing position information when a request is issued to an external device, or data  
5 converted by the communications system and/or data conversion unit; and

a position information storage unit storing position information extracted by a position information extraction unit together with  
10 information about the terminal determined by said terminal determination unit.

6. The apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising

15 an application linking apparatus for link with an application of a service provider for providing a service for a user, wherein

said application linking apparatus can further comprise a position information retrieval unit for  
20 retrieving position information about specified user by said position information storage unit, and notifying the application side of the information.

7. The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein  
25 each time position information is announced

from an information terminal of a user, said terminal determination unit can determine the type of information terminal, said position information extraction unit can extract position information, and said position information storage unit can store latest position information and terminal information.

8. The apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising:

a user authentication unit authenticating a user of a terminal which has announced position information; and

a position information storage unit storing position information extracted by said position information extraction unit together with information about the terminal determined by said terminal determination unit corresponding to an authenticated user, wherein

when position information is simultaneously announced from a plurality of information terminals of the user, a policy of prioritizing position information from which information terminal is set as a system operation environment; and

said position information storage unit can

store position information from an information terminal prioritized by the policy.

9. The apparatus according to claim 1, further  
5 comprising

an application linking apparatus for link with an application of a service provider for providing a service for a user.

10 10. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein  
said application linking apparatus comprises an event notification unit for receiving designation of a condition including an area from a service provider in advance, and notifying the  
15 application side of the data relating to the user when the user satisfies the designated condition.

11. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein  
said application linking apparatus comprises a  
20 position information reformat unit for receiving a request from a service provider, and reformatting position information about a user extracted by the position information extraction unit.

25 12. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein

said application linking apparatus comprises an accounting unit for performing an accounting process for a service provider a service provider on the communications established between a service provider and a user by a link with an application.

13. A method for obtaining position information about a user of plural types of information terminals different in position information notification system, comprising:

determining a type of an information terminal by the data transmitted from an information terminal of a user; and

extracting the position information about the user from the data transmitted from the information terminal depending on a determination result.

14. A computer-readable storage medium storing a program used to direct a computer forming an apparatus for obtaining position information about a user of plural types of information terminals different in position information notification system, comprising the steps of:

determining a type of an information terminal by the data transmitted from an information

terminal of a user; and

extracting the position information about the user from the data transmitted from the information terminal depending on a determination result.

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15. A program used to direct a computer forming an apparatus for obtaining position information about a user of plural types of information terminals different in position information notification

10 system, comprising the procedures of:

determining a type of an information terminal by the data transmitted from an information terminal of a user; and

15 extracting the position information about the user from the data transmitted from the information terminal depending on a determination result.

16. A system of obtaining, managing, and using a status and a position of a user in an information terminal, comprising:

20 a service synchronous position information acquisition unit for acquiring position information about an information terminal according to a first communications protocol which announces position  
25 information when a user requests a service; and a

service asynchronous position information  
acquisition unit for converting various  
communications protocol depending on the  
information terminal into the first communications  
5 protocol when the user requests a service, and  
transmitting the position information to the  
service synchronous position information  
acquisition unit according to the converted first  
communications protocol, characterized in that said  
10 service synchronous position information  
acquisition unit comprises: a position information  
management unit for managing the status and  
position information acquired according to the  
first communications protocol for each user; and an  
15 application link unit capable of retrieving service  
information according to the status and position  
information about a user from a user database and  
notifying a service provider of the information.

20 17. The system according to claim 16, wherein  
said service synchronous position information  
acquisition unit absorbs the difference in the  
technology of the information terminal and the  
carrier, and acquires the position information  
25 about a user.



18. An apparatus which acquires position  
information about a user of plural types of  
information terminals different in position  
5 information communication system, comprising:

a terminal determination means for determining  
a type of the information terminal depending on  
data transmitted from an information terminal of  
the user; and

10 a position information extraction means for  
extracting position information about a user from  
the data transmitted from the information terminal  
in response to the determination result.